

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

AGR-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 FTC-01 OES-03

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P R 121520Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 719

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAGR, SENV, NO, US

SUBJ: GRAPES AND LETTUCE BOYCOTT: NORWEGIAN IMPORTERS ASK

EMBASSY TO CLARIFY CALIFORNIA PESTICIDE USE

REFS: (A) OSLO 4939 (B) STATE 261849

(C) OSLO 4827 (D) OSLO 4812

SUMMARY. IN WAKE OF CHARGES ABOUT PESTICIDES
USED ON CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE (REFTELS), NORWEGIAN
FRUIT WHOLESALE ASSOCIATION HAS WRITTEN EMBASSY
ASKING WHETHER SPECIFIC PESTICIDES ARE USED ON CAL-
IFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE, WHETHER THEY ARE DANGEROUS
FOR CONSUMERS AND WHETHER UNITED FARM WORKERS (UFWA)
OR TEAMSTER CONTRACTS LIMIT THEIR USE. VISITING CALI-
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FORNIA EXPERT PROVIDED UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT

USE OF THESE PESTICIDES ON GRAPES, BUT NOT LETTUCE.
CAN DEPARTMENT CONFIRM AND SUPPLEMENT EXPERTS INFORMATION? ACTION REQUESTED: INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR SUITABLE REPLY TO NORWEGIAN FRUIT WHOLESALERS IS REQUESTED ASAP.

1. IN LETTER DATED NOV 10, NORWEGIAN FRUIT WHOLESALERS' ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY ASKED EMBASSY WHETHER CERTAIN SPECIFIC PESTICIDES ARE USED ON CALIFORNIA LETTUCE AND GRAPES, WHETHER THEY ARE DANGEROUS FOR CONSUMERS IF SO USED AND WHETHER THEY ARE PROVISIONS RESTRICTING THEIR USE IN UNITED FARM WORKER (UFWA-AFL/CIO) AND TEAMSTER CONTRACTS WITH GROWERS. WHOLESALE LETTER REFERS TO NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CITING PRESS RELEASE FROM NORWEGIAN CONSUMER COUNCIL APPEALING TO NORWEGIAN CONSUMERS NOT TO BUY CALIFORNIA LETTUCE AND GRAPES UNLESS THEY ARE "EAGLE BRAND" AND POINTING OUT THAT UFWA HAS AGREEMENTS WITH PRODUCERS TO BAN SPRAYING WITH DDT, DDD, ALDRIN, DIELDRIN, ENDRIN, TEPP, AND MONITOR-4. LETTER NOTES THAT PRESS RELEASE DOES NOT SAY WHETHER OR NOT PRODUCERS ORGANIZED BY TEAMSTERS USE THESE PESTICIDES, BUT, IN APPEALING FOR BOYCOTT OF NON-EAGLE BRAND GRAPES AND LETTUCE, IT DOES IMPLY THAT NON-EAGLE BRAND GRAPES AND LETTUCE ARE DANGEROUS. LETTER ASKS: (1) ARE (ANY OF) THESE SEVEN PESTICIDES USED IN PRODUCING CALIFORNIA GRAPES AND LETTUCE; (2) IF SO, IS THERE ANY DANGER TO NORWEGIANS CONSUMERS; (3) IF SO DOES UFWA HAVE SPECIAL AGREEMENT FORBIDDING USE OF THESE PESTICIDES; AND (4) DO TEAMSTERS HAVE SUCH AGREEMENTS? LETTER REQUESTS REPLY ASAP.

2. RECENT CALIFORNIA DELEGATION (REF A) PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO EMBASSY: ALDRIN, DIELDRIN AND ENDRIN HAVE NOT BEEN USED ON ANY CROP IN CALIFORNIA IN RECENT YEARS; DDT, DDD, AND MONITOR-4 ARE NOT CLEARED FOR USE ON GRAPES IN CALIFORNIA; TEPP CAN BE APPLIED UP TO FOUR DAYS BEFORE HARVEST AND DISSIPATES VERY QUICKLY AFTER APPLICATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION AND PROVIDE SIMILAR INFORMATION AS TO USE AND DISSIPATION OF DDD, DDT, AND MONITOR-4 AND TEPP ON LETTUCE, FOR USE IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS ONE AND TWO.

3. REF B STATES: QUOTE PESTICIDES ARE CONTROLLED BY US AND CALIFORNIA STATE REGULATIONS AND, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ARE NOT AFFECTED BY PROVISIONS OF UFW LABOR CONTRACTS. END QUOTE. IN ORDER TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THREE

AND FOUR, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THIS TO MEAN THAT ONLY THESE REGULATIONS HAVE BEARING ON PESTICIDE CONTROL, DOES IT ALSO MEAN THAT UNIONS DO NOT IN FACT HAVE ANY CONTRACTS BARRING OR LIMITING USE OF SPECIFIC PESTICIDES, THAT LIMITATIONS ESTABLISHED IN UNION CONTRACTS ARE NO STRICTER THAN THOSE ESTABLISHED BY US OR CALIFORNIA REGULATIONS, OR THAT SUCH CONTRACT PROVISIONS ARE NOT ENFORCED. WHAT OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ABOUT EXTENT AND EFFECT OF UNION CONTRACT PROVISIONS CONCERNING USE OF PESTICIDES?

4. COMMENT: LETTERS SIGNED BY VAST MAJORITY OF NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS IN SUPPORT OF UFWA BOYCOTT CONTINUE TO STIR HEADLINE CONTROVERSY AND PARLIAMENTARIANS OF ALL PARTIES ARE DEFENDING THEMSELVES AGAINST ACCUSATIONS IN PRESS AND FROM IMPORTERS AND WHOLESALERS THT THEY HAVE BEEN MISUSED OR IMPROPERLY INVOLVED IN NORWEGIAN UFWA SPOKESMAN HELGA CHRISTOPHERSEN'S BOYCOTT EFFORT. EMBASSY IS AVOIDING INVOLVEMENT IN CONTROVERSY. NEVERTHELESS, AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF FACT ABOUT PESTICIDES IN ANSWER TO WHOLESALERS' QUESTIONS IS HARD TO AVOID, COULD HELP REASSURE WHOLESALERS' AND MINIMIZE LOSS OF US GRAPE AND LETTUCE EXPORTS TO NORWAY. ON OTHER HAND, DEPENDING UPON HOW WHOLESALERS' CHOOSE TO USE INFORMATION GIVEN THEM, IT COULD WELL FUEL AND PROLONG THE CONTROVERSY.
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